

SENATE BILL 2452
By Graves

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, relative to rural water supply.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 221, is amended by adding sections 2-4 as a new, appropriately designated part:

SECTION 2. There is hereby created the Tennessee Water Resource Development Agency, that shall have the authority and responsibility to request and receive information from all branches of state and local government, in order to prepare a complete inventory of all existing water plants and their financial condition. The agency shall also prepare a statewide plan for the provision of potable water to all citizens of the state, and assure that no state or federal funds shall be used for the development of a water system that is not in compliance with the statewide plan upon its adoption.

SECTION 3. It is the policy of the state that the agency shall be nonpartisan and shall place first and foremost, the accumulation of accurate information with regard to the state's water supply, and particularly the water supply to rural areas of the state.

SECTION 4. The agency shall also have the authority and responsibility to create a revolving loan fund for the purpose of facilitating compliance with state and federal standards for rural water supply. This fund shall also provide Tennessee water systems with low-cost loans and other financial assistance for system improvements through the creation of a self-sustaining revolving loan program so as to improve rural access to water supply; and enable the department to receive and use federal funds for the loan program and other purposes, including but not limited to technical assistance, authorized by the federal act. It is intended that the water supply revolving loan program be used in coordination with state and federal assistance programs.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.